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## **Former Palmdale Unified School District Administrator Sentenced in Dog Fighting Case**

A former assistant superintendent at the Palmdale Unified School District has been sentenced to 270 days in county jail after admitting to animal abuse charges related to dogfighting, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Lyle Riggs said Pauline Ruth Winbush, 53, and her live-in boyfriend Kevin Williams, 52, both pleaded no contest on April 5 to one felony count each of possession with intent for dogfighting and animal neglect.

Williams also was sentenced yesterday to one year in county jail. Both defendants also will be on formal probation for five years and face more than three years in prison if they violate the terms of their sentence.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Frank Tavelman ordered Winbush and Williams to complete 24 animal cruelty classes, pay any restitution owed, and are barred from owning, possessing or living with any animals for 10 years.

A third co-defendant in case MA064988, Rodney Scott, 47, also entered a no contest plea to one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty on April 5 and was prohibited from owning, possessing or residing with any animal for one year.

Officers with the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control searched Winbush and Williams' Antelope Acres property after their horse was found roaming the streets on Oct. 29, 2014. Inside they discovered dogs kept inside crates filled with feces and urine which were stored inside the defendants' house, the prosecutor said. Some of the dogs also showed signs of being used for dogfighting. A total of 19 dogs were euthanized as a result.

Other animals discovered at the site included a tortoise, snakes and a box full of mice that appeared to be eating each other out of hunger, the prosecutor added. During the preliminary hearing it was revealed that evidence discovered at the property linked co-defendant Scott to the couple in an operation to breed pit bulls for fighting.

The case was investigated by the Department of Animal Care and Control and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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### **[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.